Purchase of AJT

1396. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to purchase British Hawk aircraft for induction in IAF;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any study of Czech aircraft L-159B; and

(d) if so, the difference between the British Hawk aircraft and the Czech aircraft L-159B with regard to our requirements?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Various options including the British Hawk and the Czech L-159B, for acquisition as an Advanced Jet Trainer based on the Staff Requirements are under examination by the Government. No Contract for the AJT has been finalised as yet.

Supply of defective defence equipments by Russia

1397. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia has supplied, in violation of the contract, some old, defective and unserviceable items of defence equipments;

(b) if so, whether the Comptroller and Auditor General has pointed out this in his report;

(c) what is the Government's reaction in this regard; and

(d) other details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The matter was taken up with Russians and they have agreed to replace the defective items and supply items found missing.